WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 MAY 1991

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

NEW PRESIDENT TAKES UP REINS, LISTS WCHS SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The very first thing I want to do as incoming president of the Washtenaw County Historical Society is to thank Karen O'Neal for the tremendous amount of time and effort she has put forth during her two years as president of our Society, and I look forward to continuing to work with Karen toward the completion of the Museum on Main Street.

Everyone on the various committees and the Board of Directors has been very supportive, caring, and hard-working to make the new museum a reality - they, too, are to be congratulated for their efforts.

The Society also wishes to thank Joe and Karen O'Neal for opening the Macon Mill for our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 1. More than 80 attended the potluck supper and the food was bountiful and delicious.

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PAST PRESIDENT THANKS ALL WHO HELPED, WILL DEVOTE SELF TO MUSEUM

I have enjoyed being the WCHS's president for the past two years. I thank you for the opportunity. So many of you are new friends, and I have learned so much from you.

Together we have taken steps to establish a museum, long sought by the Society, and something that I believe will become an important part of the community. It has been interesting, exciting and fun.

A lot has been accomplished, but a lot remains to be done. I intend to continue to devote my time to getting the MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET up and running.

The Society is lucky to have Pauline Walters stepping into the Presidency. She knows everything there is to know about the workings of the Society and will do an outstanding job. She has been a terrific help to me this past year. Her assistance was always offered enthusiastically.

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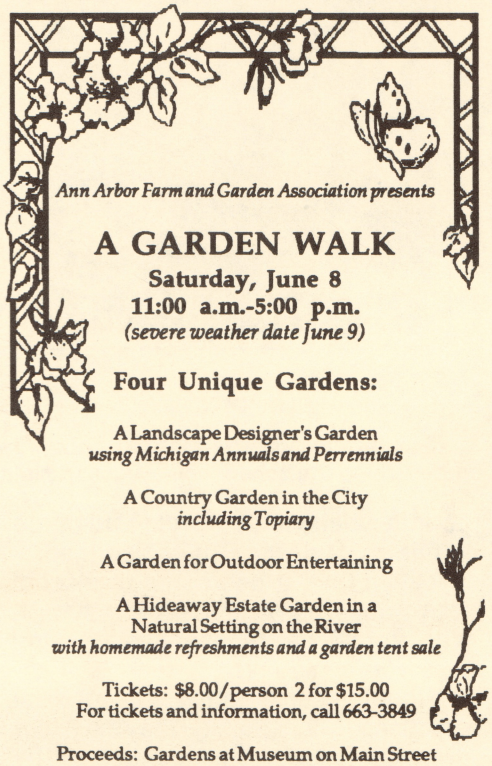
GARDEN WALK JUNE 8 BENEFITS WCHS MUSEUM ON MAIN; LUNCHEON, TALK BY SCOTT KUNST COMPLETES EVENT


Ann Arbor Farm and Garden Association presents
A GARDEN WALK
Saturday, June 8
11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
(severe weather date June 9)
Four Unique Gardens:
A Landscape Designer's Garden
using Michigan Annuals and Perrennials
A Country Garden in the City
including Topiary
A Garden for Outdoor Entertaining
A Hideaway Estate Garden in a
Natural Setting on the River
with homemade refreshments and a garden tent sale
Tickets: $8.00/person 2 for $15.00
For tickets and information, call 663-3849
Proceeds: Gardens at Museum on Main Street

Ann Arbor Farm and Garden Association's first Garden Walk Saturday, June 8, will directly benefit WCHS's Museum on Main Street with all the proceeds going to museum landscaping.

Four private gardens will be open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. In conjunction with the walk, WCHS plans a luncheon and talk about "Early Flower Varieties" at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and suggests visiting a garden or two in the morning and the rest after lunch.

Scott Kunst, a specialist in old-fashion landscaping who teaches in the Eastern Michigan University Historic Preservation Program, will speak at the luncheon.

Gardens include "a country garden in the city" at 2024 Geddes, a garden for outdoor entertaining at 2116 Dorset, a landscape designer's garden at 2961 Devonshire and a 17-acre low-maintenance estate garden in a natural setting at 5288 Geddes.

1. The first garden (2024 Geddes) features "completely unexpected combinations of plant material and garden ornament." It has topiary, complete and in process, an intimate covered patio, nooks and crannies, composting ideas and "even a fish in a sea of sedum."

2. Behind the stately Georgian colonial with formal entry landscape at 2116 Dorset is a large outdoor entertainment area with informal walks and terraces and a mixture of old and new plantings of annuals and perennials.

3. The landscape designer's garden at 2961 Devonshire has sun and shade gardens, annual and perennial gardens, and low maintenance areas with ornamental grasses and day lilies.

The beds are planned for a succession of bloom in coordinated colors. There are dozens of labeled varieties of hostas, day lilies and grasses. The sponsors suggests bringing your notebook.

4. The 17-acre estate gardens at 5288 Geddes were featured in a cover story by *Garden Design* magazine. Low maintenance plantings spill over the tiered, sloping landscape, adapting the gardens to their natural setting.

The multi-level house nestles into the slope that faces the river and is surrounded by gardens of myrtle, pachysandra and cotoneaster as well as colorful clumps of perennial.

There will be a refreshment tent near the pool. Unusual plants and garden items and homemade refreshments will be on sale.

WCHS offers a combined garden walk-luncheon ticket, $20, or separately, walk, $8; luncheon, $12. Send enclosed coupon with check to WCHS Office, Goodyear Building, Suite 250, 122 South Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1903 by Tuesday, June 4.

PLEASE NOTE: Garden walk rain day, Sunday, June 9. However, the indoor luncheon program will be at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, June 8, RAIN OR SHINE.

Need information or a ride? Call WCHS office, 662-9092.

NINETEENTH CENTURY MEDICINE

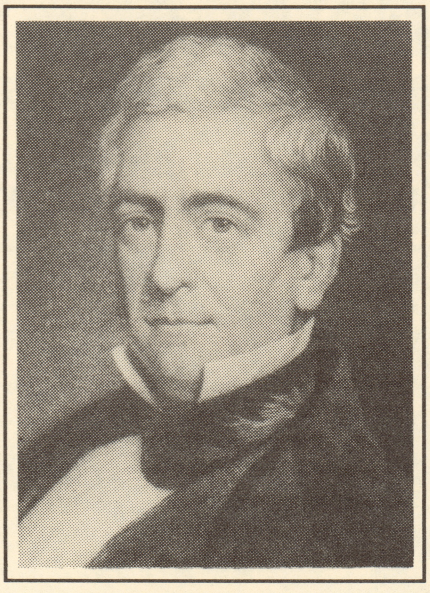
PATIENT MAY HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF IF DOCTOR DIDN'T COME

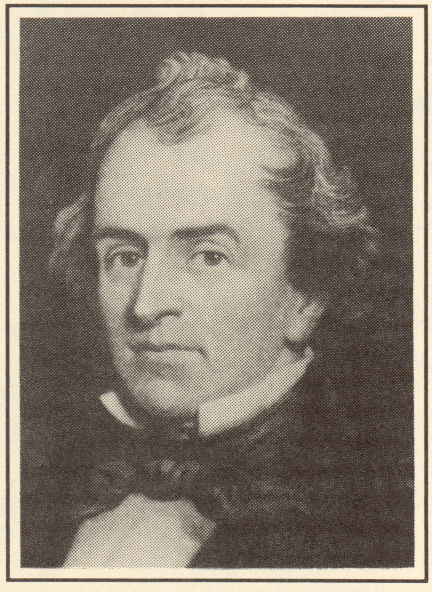
If you were sick in early nineteenth century Ann Arbor you may have been better off if the doctor didn't come, U-M History Professor Nicholas Steneck told the April WCHS audience.

Professor Steneck teaches history and directs the Historical Center for the Health Sciences at the University of Michigan. He spoke on "Nineteenth Century Medicine in Ann Arbor," showed slides and exhibited early medical equipment from his center's collection.

Saying he has been here now "only 20 years," he said his main interest initially was the University but he has discovered Ann Arbor and the University were more closely tied together than now, and through the University he has come to discover Ann Arbor and the State.

His study of this topic is "in process." He hopes longtime Ann Arborites will help him fill in some of the details.





Pictures courtesy of Nicholas Steneck

ZINA PITCHER **SAMUEL DENTON**

Members of first UM Medical School faculty in 1850. Dr. Pitcher was influential in establishing the school and attracting his more intellectual physician friends to the area.

"As Washtenaw County was settled there were, of course, physicians that came. However, most of the medical care at that time was delivered in the home, usually by the women. There was very little that couldn't be done by family medicine.

"Families relied heavily on patent medicines. The U.S. patent law of 1790 allowed people to take out patents on all sorts of things including medicine.

"It became very profitable to patent medicines and sell them. So at the same time that you have physicians coming to the area, you also have what was known as the sectarians or medical sects--the Thomsonians the eclectic school, the botanic school.

"Medicine consisted for the vast majority of people of just simply nursing and tending in the home and occasionally giving one of these patent medicines.

"The primary ingredient was alcohol--the higher proof the better-- and the some gentle herbals to make them taste fairly good.

"It wasn't all that bad though to be limited to herbal and home medicine because what the standard physicians had to offer was very often non-efficacious and not particularly pleasant.

"Blistering, purging and bleeding were the main cures. They either put something on to blister the body and draw out fluids or purged, which meant pour in whatever you could and purge either up or down. They also bled.

"Given that, a good shot of alcohol with a little bit of herbal remedy in it was probably as pleasant as anything else you could find.

"Nonetheless, early on, medical practice in Michigan and the Ann Arbor area came under the control of the regular physicians--those who had been trained in a medical school, had a medical degree and who were, in 1819, given the authority by the state government to license all physicians to practice.

"So by 1819-1820, the regular physicians, those with degrees of one form or another, were essentially in control of medical practice in the area. They were allowed to grant licenses and establish branch societies.

"So it was in 1827 that the Washtenaw County Medical Society was first set up as a branch society of the Michigan State Medical Society.

"There are no records that survive from the early Washtenaw Society. We do, however, know of their activities from frequent advertisements in newspapers.

"For example, in 1835, they advertised,

> 'NOTICE: an adjourned meeting of Washtenaw County Medical Society will be held at the house of E. Mundy on the 26th instant at 10 o'clock January 1835. Those who wish to become members of the society are requested to attend. If it is not convenient, forward your credentials in some manner to the Society...'

"So by 1835 the county society is licensing physicians to practice in the Ann Arbor area.

"They were drawn here, particularly the intellectual ones, by one physician in particular, a name that will now become cherished to all of you because you can now drive on his street--Zina Pitcher."

Zina Pitcher Place is a two-block long street at the end of East Huron which swings north into the UM Medical Center. It was previously called Washtenaw Place and before that North Forest.

"Many people say 'Zina Who?' but he is extremely important. He was trained in Vermont at Castleton Medical College. He joined the Army and spent his first years in Michigan as an Army Surgeon.

He settled in Detroit and slowly recruited friends, physicians, into Detroit and elsewhere to set up practice and to establish a kind of high level intellectual tradition to Michigan medicine.

"He brought in Douglas Houghton in the 1830s, the first state geologist, whose portrait hangs in the Bentley Library meeting room. (The portrait was by Houghton's cousin, Alva Bra-

dish.)

"He brought in Silas Douglas in 1837 and Abram Sager also in the 1830s. Pitcher and his friends organized the Michigan State Medical Society.

"They set up practice and, as they do, they advertise their wares in the papers. One of the most important physicians in Ann Arbor is Samuel Denton."

In 1831 Denton put the following advertisement in the *Michigan Emigrant* headed:

"SURGERY. The subscriber [which is Samuel Denton] would inform the people of Washtenaw and neighboring counties that he has procured a complete assortment of surgical instruments and preparations among which are amputation, trephining, obstetrics and cupping instruments and approved splints for different kinds of fractures, electric machines...and is ready to attend to all calls of the surgical departments of his profession in Ann Arbor."

CARVED CANE CONTAINS DISTINGUISHED NAMES

One medical student in 1883 carved a cane or walking stick with a likeness of the Medical School and got his classmates to carve their names on it including one W. Mayo who later established a world famous clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, with his brother and another student who was a founder of Johns Hopkins Medical School.

Unfortunately, the owner of the cane flunked out of school, Professor Steneck found, although he thinks he went on to practice medicine.

Professor Steneck held up examples of the various kinds of surgical equipment from his display. Most of his were from later in the century than Denton's would have been, he noted.

The cupping apparatus, he explained, is basically a set of glass cups which you heated, blistered the skin, put over the blister and drew out the juices.

The trephining instrument is a circular drill for drilling holes in the skull.

"Denton, too, was a graduate of Castleton Medical College in Vermont. He would go on to become one of the founding members of the University of Michigan Medical School and was one of the leading physicians in Ann Arbor in the 1840s and 1850s.

"Many of these doctors, I believe, practiced in the Washtenaw County Court House. Denton announced in the *Michigan Whig* in 1835 that he had removed his office to the Court House in the south room on the east side of the hall.

"Those who call after bedtime will please knock on the window if the door is fastened."

"Also in 1835 Dr. Cowley, late of Ontario County, New York, advertised, 'If you have need, try him; if you like him, retain him; if not, dismiss him.'

"By 1835 doctors are also starting to specialize. Dr. Jeffries wants people to know that he has brought in a colleague."

He advertises,

"Dr. Jeffries, thankful for past favors, would inform the citizens of this territory that he has associated with him in business Dr. Cowley of New York. The undersigned, having an excellent supply of surgical instruments and, as they trust, a good knowledge of practical and experiment of their profession, they flatter themselves that they should be able to give prompt and successful and satisfactory attention to all calls with which they may be favored."

They had set up practice in the Washtenaw House in Lower Town.

"The practice of medicine at this time was not easy. It was also not necessarily lucrative. There was a great deal of competition and of course, there was a great deal of home remedy as well.

"He noted one advertisement for drugs, medicines, turpentines, seed and bricks--a drug, medical and hardware store all mixed together because you couldn't make a living on just one.

"The pages are also filled with all sorts of advertisements for patent medicines." He noted "Peters Pills, 'All who try them continue to buy them' and Dr. Bartholomew's Pink Expectorant Syrup" for sale at W.S. and J.W. Marynard's downtown.

Dr. Bartholomew advertised that "the cases of consumption are so numerous in all the northern latitudes that some remedy as a prevention should be kept by every family constantly on hand to administer on the first appearance of so dire a disease."

"In the 1840s there had been a considerable lobbying effort in the state government to break the monopoly that the standard physicians had over licensing of medical practice. by 1846 it had succeeded.

"Each of the sects had the right then to license and regulate their own profession. From 1846 on medicine in Michigan was in what one called a 'free market economy.' You got what you paid for.

"Everybody advertised, everybody sold. It was a very chancy time to go into medical practice.

"If you compared this with the fact that the standard physicians were bleeding, purging and so on, these pills and other things were more at-

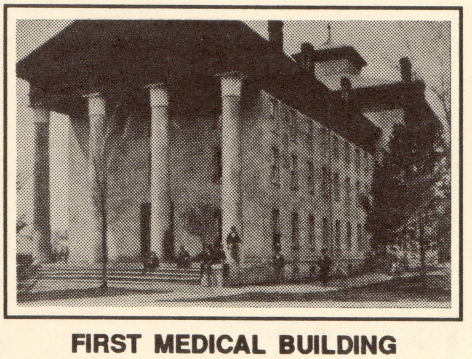
TAPPAN CAREER ALMOST DOOMED BY HOMEOPATHY

It's hard to imagine the animosities that existed between various medical sects. Zina Pitcher in particular was just death on them, Steneck said.

"Before we hired Henry Philip Tappan in 1851, Pitcher, under a false name, wrote to Tappan's physician in New York and said, 'I am a homeopathic physician [whom he actually hated] and I would like to know where Tappan stands on homeopathy.'

"The New York City homeopathic physician, not suspecting anything, wrote back and said Tappan sees a homeopathic physician in New York. That was almost enough to squash that appointment.

"That was totally unethical. In other ways Pitcher was very ethical but when it came to that he wanted nothing to do with it."



FIRST MEDICAL BUILDING

Opened 1850 on present site of Randall Physics Laboratory. Destroyed by fire August 12, 1911.

tractive.

"Up until 1840-45, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Saline, Dexter and so on were all more or less the same--a few local physicians in town, a lot of quack medicine or whatever it is.

"After this period Ann Arbor will go in a very different direction. Because of the University, you recruit a different caliber of physician.

"The organic act of the University in 1837 had stipulated that the University would have medical, literary and law departments. There was also some mention of engineering and agriculture.

"Initially, only the literary school was established--they didn't have the money to do anything else. By the mid-1840s they are pushed to established a medical school.

"You are bringing into town more and more of the elite, or whatever you want to call them and there is an effort over this time--1842-43-44 to try to establish a medical department, but the University had terrible money problems over the 1840s.

"As a result of that, three people--Silas Douglas, Moses Gunn and Abram Sager in 1846 founded their own private medical school.

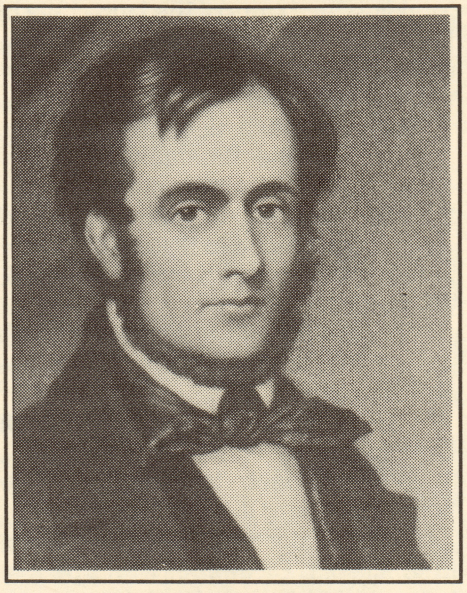
"I'm almost certain that their school was in the Washtenaw County Courthouse. We know this from a student who studied in the private medical school beginning in the fall of 1846.

"It was not a high class institution," the student writes in his diary of October 1846. "Today I took my books and went to the office and tried to study but to do so was impossible on account of the uproar which the chaps there [fellow students] kept up.

"There is a wild, rude set of fellows there whose aim seems to be to crack jokes, smoke, etc. rather than to study. These fellows are soon to be let loose on society to kill or cure.

"Disease and death will undoubtedly have a prosperous time under their supervision and, yet, I venture to say they will all of them succeed tolerably well for they are great, jovial sorts of fellows with lots of assurance which will bear them up through any difficulty."

"We know in great detail what went on in this medial school," Steneck continued, "because the student kept a daily diary. They went through the standard lectures on botany, zoology and so on and even managed to go through a full course of anatomical lectures."



SILAS DOUGLAS

Early UM faculty member, respected citizen and figure in the controversial 1875 Douglas-Rose affair.

On the seventh of November the student records in his diary, "At the office today we fitted up a lecture room for Dr. Gunn whose lectures commence on Monday. By lectures was meant the lectures on the cadaver that was going to come in."

The following week he writes, "Today (11 November) our subject, a poor Negro girl was brought up. Poor, despised, degraded African, degraded and despised in life, you are to be made a spectacle and subject of ridicule and obscene gesture, even in death."

"The student who recorded this is remarkable for his sensitivity and his observations. He's torn over the next three weeks between his sympathy for the subject and his desire to learn more about anatomy. They go through part by part.

"This is pre-refrigeration so you cut apart the parts that rot the fastest and wait to study the bones last.

Sometimes he's a very mature medical student, sometimes not. He records one time, "In the evening had a great train [which means fun] with girls downtown with a piece of the cadaver and frightened them almost to death."

"These are, by the way, not the first dissections done in Michigan. I have evidence the first were done in Detroit as early as 1838-39 and I'm almost certain Sager was dissecting human cadavers in Jackson in 1839-40.

"It was a risky thing to do. When Zina Pitcher dissected in Detroit he brought the members of the clergy and lawyers in to watch so they could see what was going on. Otherwise you were at risk of having the town go against you and drive you out of town."

By 1850 the University Medical School opened. He showed a composite of the faculty, all portraits by Bradish. At least three of the portraits still exist. The medical faculty included Zina Pitcher, Samuel Denton, Silas Douglas, Abram Sager, Moses Gunn and J. Adams Allen.

He also showed slides of individual portraits of Sager, Gunn and Alonzo Palmer, a picture of the Greek temple design medical building that opened in 1850 and an 1860 composite of the medical faculty with President Tappan in the middle.

"Somebody has to do a decent biography of Bradish and his portrait painting. He may have been the first painter to teach at a university in the United States."

"Ann Arbor was an exciting place to be for students and faculty in 1850. The town and University mixed together very much.

"A student named Francis Thomas from Philadelphia wrote back to his friends in 1863 of Ann Arbor, 'It's a rural town, typical midwestern town. There are orchards in back yards.'

"Then he said the town is dominated by two things--religion and the university. 'Should a fellow get a little

ANATOMY ASSISTANT GETS DUBIOUS HONOR

An early medical student, Edmund Andrews, who graduated in the first class in 1852, was appointed an assistant in anatomy in 1851 which he thought was a great honor until he found out his only job as assistant was to procure cadavers for dissection.

"He mentions that he was the only state employee he knew of that, if he carried out his job as he was required, could wind up in jail because what he was doing was illegal, Professor Steneck related.

Andrews said he followed two rules:

1. Never secure a body of anyone who came from a family that would look for the body. Always go for the poor.

2. Never do business in Ann Arbor.

bit tipsy and stagger over to one side of the street and bump into a building, he'll find that its a university building. If he staggers to the other side of the street he'll find a church.'

He describes the streets in the 1860s as unpaved with plank sidewalks. "He loves it. In fact most students who came here were infatuated with the town and faculty found it very hospitable.

"We know in great detail from a fellow named Walter Chapin who began here in 1850. He describes his dorm room, wood stove, straw mattress, his table that's just about falling down. He goes into the laboratory and explains his experiments.

"He finishes up by saying 'This is a great place. I think I'm going to stay here for quite a while, and it's so cheap.

"The University Medical School was the only one that was free--no fees, and it was of excellent quality.

"It brought people such as Edmund Andrews who graduated in the first class in 1852. He describes his field trips out into the countryside around Ann Arbor to collect specimens. They went on field trips up local rivers, and on geological expeditions.

"The faculty and town physicians were very closely associated with one another. If you want a very good impression of that read through the correspondence of the Silas Douglas family.

"The Silas Douglas house is next to the Baptist Church on Huron Street. There are marvelous letters describing that house in the 1850s-60s-70s.

"Mrs. Douglas was hostess to students and to people in the town. The students came there on Sunday afternoon and got the only good meal of the week. Ann Arbor was one large community into the 1870s.

"The students loved their faculty, no one more than Corydon Ford. He lectured on anatomy for six months. When he finished that series he got on the train and went to another medical school the other six months.

"One year as he was getting ready to leave town for his summer lectures word circulated among the students that he was about to leave. His entire medical class went down to the train station, and when he arrived, they proceeded to cheer him and hollered 'speech, speech, speech.'

"Finally Corydon Ford got up and bid his boys farewell.

"The student reports in the diary, 'Tough physicians that we are, there wasn't a dry eye in the crowd.'

"The local doctors in Ann Arbor and at the University ran the medical establishment. The reorganized the Washtenaw County Medical Society in 1866--it had come and gone several times but it finally gets established in 1866 - and hereafter it will be the main organization for medicine right into the 20th century.

WELL, WELL, ANN ARBOR TAP WATER FAILED TEST

One example of the new, more professional scientific medicine promoted by Victor Vaughn is a whole series of water samples taken by Ann Arbor physicians in 1911 and sent to Vaughn's hygiene laboratory for analysis, Professor Steneck said.

"They were labeled 'tap water, Ann Arbor.' Every single sample that I looked at from Vaughn's reports came back 'polluted, do not drink.'"

"There were other sides to the close relationship between town and University. In 1875 an Ann Arbor Scientific Club was founded. It was open to men and women alike. They had as many as 100 people out at their meetings. It was headed by Preston Rose. Silas Douglas and others lectured.

"It was University and townspeople coming together to discuss the latest developments in science, medicine and elsewhere.

"We know from many sources of this close association. Probably the best way we know about it is from a document we are about to publish--a nurses diary from 1888.

"This is a diary that extends from 1888-1911 by Emily Jane Green Hollister. She was an untrained practical nurse in Ann Arbor.

"The pattern is very typical--a family will get sick. They are treated in the home. They will call in a physician. Half to three-quarters of them in this diary are University physicians practicing in the town.

"A physician comes in and makes a diagnosis, says the family needs nursing care, calls on Emily Hollister and in she comes--for two days, a week, two weeks, three weeks, five weeks--whatever it takes to get the family through this illness.

"Physicians visit morning and evening. One physician refers patients to another physician--there may be two or three physicians on a case.

"Emily records in her diary on July 24, 1890, 'I came to Mr. Sedgewick Dean's place to nurse Mrs. Stebbins' daughter Emily who was sick with typhoid fever. She is a lovely girl, the fever is low and she is beginning to gain."

"Dr. Breakey practiced medicine for over 50 years in this town. Dr. Darling, UM physician instrumental in founding St. Joseph Hospital, takes over Dr. Breakey's place for a few days. He changes the way of giving medicine and gets a good result. 'We give a large dose but not so often.'

"Emily takes care of case after case after case. Sometimes there will be several in the family who are sick. Sometimes she's called in to assist in delivery, sometimes the doctor doesn't arrive and Emily delivers the baby."

Emily reminisces about her early childhood:

"It was on Main that I was born and lived until I was eight years old, so that being in this neighborhood [on a case] brings to memory many things that happened. One is the burning of the Phoenix Block--the whole block burned.

"Another was the quarrel between W.S. Maynard and Laura Ramsdell over a peacock which Ramsdell put under a tub and a horse that was in trouble. It was something all the time.

"Maynard owned the brickyard with a lot of rough men working for him near us, so my father, William Henry Green, sold out and we moved to Washington Street.

"I missed my pleasure of skating and coasting but on Washington Street there were lots of children, so we found lots of fun. I left my home and married at age 16."

She was supposed to be a student in the new high school when it opened up but it was exactly that year that she got married and never went to school, Steneck said.

She subsequently moved to Whitmore Lake, had eleven children and when the last of the children was about seven, she moved back to Ann Arbor. At age 45 she entered into nursing and nursed for the next thirty years.

"The University physicians and licensed physicians of the medical society were always fighting with the sects, most importantly with the homeopaths.

"From 1840 on there was basically an 80-year long battle between homeopathic medicine and what the homeopaths called allopathic medicine.

"The state started pushing in the 1850s to get the University to establish a homeopathic medical department. The University steadfastly refused as they were also refusing to admit women.

"The homeopaths kept fighting. It's an interesting case because those cases establish the constitutional autonomy of the University of Michigan regents. By winning over the homeopaths they establish the precious independence the University now has.

"The state, of course, did what states do so well--dangled the dollar in front of the University and, in 1876, the University finally gave in and established a homeopathic medical school. North Hall where R.O.T.C. is now is the old Homeopathic Medical School.

"There were battles within the physician community. Some of these raged for years.

"The first University Hospital opened in 1869 in one of the old professor's houses. Pavilions were built behind the house where patients were housed and then carted across campus to the operating theater. The dental school was in the that house later. The chemistry building is now on the site.

"One of the greatest controversies at the University that really has an impact on the town is the infamous Douglas-Rose affair.

"In 1875 Preston Rose was accused of embezzling funds form chemistry laboratory fees. He paid back a little money but said he didn't take nearly as much as they were accusing him of and said, in fact, it was his superior, Silas Douglas, who had taken the money.

"Douglas had been here since the 1840s and was highly respected. Douglas was an Episcopalian, Rose a Methodist. It became a celebrated cause between Episcopalians and Methodists as to who was going to win this controversy.

"It went on for five years and made it up through the court system to the Michigan Supreme Court. Decisions came down. Rose was fired and rehired. Douglas was fired and eventually brought back again.

"In 1879 when President Angell was called away to be an ambassador to China, one of the main reasons he undertook the position was to get out of town for a while and get the Douglas-Rose affair behind him it was so bad.

MOSES GUNN

Gunn, Silas Douglas and Abram Sager established their own private medical school in 1846 in Ann Arbor, probably in the Courthouse.

"Reverberations about this lasted into the 1900-1910 period. One of the families that supported Rose was the well-known Ann Arbor family, the Beals. This is one case in which University politics spilled out into the town.

"There's a marvelous story to tell someday. One of the people involved took a Darwinian-type voyage around the world and collected specimens and gave them back to the University to pay off Rose's debt.

"Lastly, what's going to change this 19th century medical atmosphere is that toward the end of the century medicine is going to start to get scientific.

"It's then that the town and University physicians slowly split apart. The physicians who had been trained during the Civil War or shortly after, as in fact Dr. Breakey, who lasted so long, had been based their medical practice on what they had observed.

"It was experience that was the basis of their skills and the Washtenaw County Medical Society required physicians to keep a case book because that case book and what you learned through experience was the key to your skill as a physician.

"A new breed of people start coming to Ann Arbor in the 1870s and '80s, characterized best by Victor Vaughan who comes here as a student. He will change and push medicine in a research and laboratory direction."

"Professor Steneck showed slides of the Catherine Street hospitals where the new scientific medicine started, the anatomy laboratory in the 1890s, Victor Vaughan's hygiene laboratory and the brand new medical school of 1901, now the school of Natural Resources Building.

Answers to questions revealed that

- around the turn of the century some private hospitals opened. Dr. Peterson's was probably the largest. Dr. Cowley opened one and St. Joseph's opened as a private hospital.
- Doctors were limited in what they could do effectively in the 19th century but there were some malaria remedies that allegedly worked, there was some operating that was effective and the one thing that was effective more than anything else was vaccination for small pox.
- In the 1860s the University UM Medical School, with 200-300 in a class was larger than the Literary Collge.
- We have more than a 1,000 medical student theses form the 1850s to 1870s in Bentley Library, so they were all literate.

U S STARTED RAISING OWN OPIUM POPPIES

The poppy has been cultivated for the last three years in the vicinity of Nashville, Tennessee, with a view to the manufacture of opium. Seed of the opium poppy was obtained from Calcutta and Smyrna, and this year it is announced there will be quite a good crop.

There is surely no objection to raising our own opium in this country, provided people are not thereby induced to take it otherwise than medicinally.

Harper's Bazar, New York, Saturday, April 16, 1872.

HISTORIC HAPPENINGS INVOLVE FIFE, MAY MAST, MOZART, LIVERY BARN, GERMAN ANCESTORS, DOCENTS

Chelsea Historical Society: War artifacts form Civil War to Desert Storm, including a WCHS drum and fife, will be displayed at the Depot through July 4. May 21, a fifth grade class from St. Edith School, Livonia, that has been studying the Civil War, is to visit.

Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 10, at Depot, North Main at tracks. Annual picnic July 8. Society displays planned at Sidewalk Days in July and Chelsea Fair in August. The second wedding to be held at the Depot will be May 19.

Dexter Society: An exhibit of the art and writings of May Mast will be featured at the spring opening of Dexter Museum, 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19. Refreshments.

Thereafter the museum, 3443 Inverness, will be open 1-3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays until December.

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. third Tuesday at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday through summer at Hack House. Flea Market planned June 29 at Hack House. Decorating clinic with award-winning Ann-Marie Barnes, 7 p.m. May 22 at Hack House, 775 County Street. $10 donation to Milan Society. R.S.V.P. 439-7522 or 439-8387.

Pittsfield Society: Summer meetings, 7 p.m. first Wednesday at township hall, State and Ellsworth Roads, in June, July and August.

Salem Society: "An Evening with Mozart in Salem-Walker Church," 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at church on Angle Road in honor of 200th anniversary of Mozart's death.

Photo exhibit of historic Salem homes at townhall, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday, June 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, June 15. Reception for owners of homes 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Saline Society: Open house Saturday, May 18, at the Depot-Livery Barn historic center with ceremony of presentation to the mayor, model railroad displays.

Regular meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, at Senior Center, 7605 North Maple Road. Bill Sherman, recent EMU graduate, will give a report on Saline founder Orange Risdon.

County rural schools display to be shown at the Saline High School Alumni Association centennial celebration June 15. Antique Alley at Saline Summerfest July 27. The Society will take its gazebo to the annual picnic in the park August 31 and the Saline Fair September 2-7.

Webster Society: Potluck picnic, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 10 at home of Ann and Earl Graves, 7292 Webster Church Road. Mrs. Edith Staebler Kempf will speak on "German Ancestors of Our Township." Bring table service and dish to pass. Beverage furnished.

Ypsilanti Society: Yard sale, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 1 at museum, 220 North Huron. (Rain date June 8). The Society will treat its 50-60 docents to a luncheon and program at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, at the Ladies Literary Club.

Next membership meeting Sunday, July 21, ice cream social on lawn. Girl Scouts from all over the world, meeting in Ann Arbor in July, have scheduled a visit to the museum July 22.

The Society will participate in the annual Heritage Festival August 16-18.

DISASTER IS TOPIC

Kim Harrison, president of the Michigan Genealogical Council, will talk about "The Sultana Disaster Descendants" at the Genealogy Society of Washtenaw County meeting Sunday, May 19, Washtenaw Community College.

Meeting 1:30 p.m. in Lecture Hall II, Liberal Arts and Science Building; talk about 2 p.m. Class following on "Cemetery Reading and Research."

1871: EASTERN SCHOOLS SUPPRESSED HAZING

The faculty of Princeton College very properly have resolved to suppress "hazing" and the alleged recent "revolt" arose from the suspension of certain Sophomores for "hazing" Freshmen. The so-called revolters had no sympathy from the upper classes, and the whole affair was a failure to raise a sedition.

The Naval Academy at Annapolis has just dismissed five youths for "hazing." The example of Annapolis and Princeton may well be followed by all colleges until this senseless, shameful practice is wholly abandoned.

Harper's Bazar, New York, Saturday, November 11, 1871.

BOOK-SIGNING PARTY AT COBBLESTONE MAY 22

The Voyage of the Peacock, A Journal by Benajah Ticknor, Naval Surgeon who owned Ann Arbor's Cobblestone Farm has just been published by the University of Michigan Press.

Nan Powell Hodges who edited it for publication will sign books at a party from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, at Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard Road. No admission fee. Refreshments. Parking first drive west of house.

Ticknor, a self-educated New England doctor, sailed in 1832 on the USS *Peacock* to Vietnam, Thailand and Oman before he settled in Ann Arbor.

BROWN BAG TOPIC: GERMAN TRADITION

Arthur French of the Schwaben Verein and WCHS Board will talk about "The German Tradition in Ann Arbor" at the final brown bag luncheon of 1990-91 at Kempf House, 312 South Division, at noon, Wednesday, May 22.

Other Kempf House events:

Stained glass tour, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 2.

Singalong, salute to dear old dad and mustache contest, 7-9 p.m. Saturday, June 15.

Open house, 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through Saturday, July 27 except Memorial Day Weekend. Open 1-4 p.m. during Art Fair, then closed until fall.

OLD HOUSE CLINICS SET

Old House Clinics are planned on painting, June 9, drywall, July 14 and "Faux Finishes," September 8, at 310 South Ashley, Ann Arbor, sponsored by Ann Arbor Preservation Alliance. Presenters are Ken Lussenden, Oliver Taylor and Sabra Briere, respectively. Information: 665-2112.

COBBLESTONE HOURS

Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard Road, Ann Arbor, is open to tour from 1-4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday each week.

Washtenaw County Historical Society

(313) 662-9092

MUSEUM on MAIN STREET - - Building Fund

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

I/We pledge a tax-deductible gift to the **MUSEUM on MAIN STREET** - Building Fund

in the sum of $ _____ to be paid in _____ equal portions in the years 1991 + 1992

Attached is my/our pledge for 1991: $ _____ check #: _____ Signature _____

Please make checks payable to **MUSEUM on MAIN STREET -- Building Fund** (no cash, please) and mail to:

Attention: Mr. Eugene Fowler / NBD - Ann Arbor
P.O. Box 8601 / Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8601

1991 CONTRIBUTION / PLEDGE CARD

___ Please have a WCHS member call on me - I need more information

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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

122 South Main Street Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1903 (313) 662-9092

Please enroll me / us as a member from *January 1 to December 31, 1991*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Student: up to 18 years old or in college
Senior Citizen: 60 years or older Senior Couple: one member 60+

Type of Membership:

___ Student	$ 5
___ Teacher	5
___ Individual.	10
___ Family / Couple	18
___ Senior Citizen	8
___ Senior Couple	14
___ Association / Commerical	25
___ Sustaining	50
___ Patron	100

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ART FAIR PARKING at the ***Great Lakes Bancorp*** lot on Washington and Division Streets

Wednesday, July 24	5:00 - 9:00 p.m.	**Saturday, July 27**	8:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, July 25	5:00 - 9:00 p.m.		10:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Friday, July 26	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.		1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

I / we will help with the parking on the day(s) circled:

Name _____ Phone _____

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GARDEN WALK and/or **LUNCHEON TICKET ORDER *INFORMATION:* 662-9092**

LUNCHEON: Saturday, June 8, 1991 *(rain or shine)* ***Reservations must be in by JUNE 4th***
12:30 p.m. at the U of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens **$12.00**

GARDEN WALK: Saturday, June 8 or *RAIN DAY: Sunday, June 9, 1991* **8.00**

Enclosed please find $ _____ for ___ LUNCHEON / ___ GARDEN WALK tickets: $ _____ Total

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope to receive tickets by mail.

NEW PRESIDENT . . .

(Continued from page 1)

The Scottish Dancers were a wonderful finish for the meeting - Henry Ford was probably smiling broadly as he observed the dancers performing in the last of the mills he had built.

This issue of the *Washtenaw Impressions* is the last one until September. Elsewhere you will find a sign-up form for summer events: on June 8 WCHS's annual trip will be the GARDEN WALK sponsored by the Ann Arbor Farm & Garden Association and WCHS will sponsor a luncheon at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Tickets are available at the office, 662-9092.

During the Ann Arbor Art Fair, WCHS will park cars in the Great Lakes Bancorp lots at Washington and Division Streets. The proceeds will go to the Museum Building Fund. On Wednesday and Thursday, July 24 and 25 we will have the use of the parking lot from 5 p.m. and Friday, July 26, from 6 p.m. Four to six persons are needed each of those three days. On Saturday, July 27 we will need three shifts of people: 8 a.m. to 11; 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 1:30 to 4 p.m. Please let us know if you can take one of the shifts.

The last request is the fun one: soon we will be ready to work in the Museum garden. Peter Pollack has developed a beautiful landscaping plan and as soon as the lot is fine graded, the driveway and sidewalks installed, we will be needing help with the maintenance of the plantings.

This will be a good opportunity for those with green-thumbs (and those who just like to dig in the dirt) to help beautify the corner of North Main and Beakes Streets.

Pauline Walters

PAST PRESIDENT . . .

(Continued from page 1)

My grateful thanks goes to each and every Board member. The Board has worked together to make the Society run smoothly. A lot of effort takes place behind the scenes here.

The Sunday afternoon programs take a lot of planning. Getting together this publication and getting it in the mail is a huge job seven or eight times a year.

Keeping track of the money: membership dues, museum fundraising, paying construction and other bills takes time and dedication. Collections and museum planning are areas where Board members have contributed much time and talent.

Others have done research, oral histories, studied the by-laws, wrote grants, recorded minutes, obtained insurance, helped with mailings, baked cookies, parked cars, decorated a Christmas tree, attended conferences, contributed ideas and offered advice.

Thanks for all your hard work -- and please keep on doing what you are doing! You do your jobs well.

I would like especially to thank four persons who are not on the Board but who have done some very special things for the Society: Cliff Sheldon, co-chairman with Dave Pollock of the Museum Fund Raising Committee; Thelma Graves who works with Esther Warzynski as treasurer for the Museum Fund; and Arlene Schmid and Dick Dunn, who share the traveling exhibits with schools and other groups.

On behalf of the Society I would like to express thanks to each of you.

Karen O'Neal

WHAT IS IT? GAME OFFERED SCHOOLS, GROUPS

WCHS offers a traveling exhibit of small artifacts set up as a humorous "What is it?" game to schools for children and another for adults.

They are available for classes and meetings. Information: Arlene Schmid, 665-8773.

UM SCHOOL OF NURSING CENTENNIAL MARKED; OTHERS HONORED

WCHS has presented six anniversary certificates in 1990-91 including the University of Michigan School of Nursing which celebrated the centennial of nursing education at Michigan May 1-4.

The School was established in the medical unit built in 1891. The first class of six students was admitted December 7, 1991.

Other recognized during the past year were the Ann Arbor Unitarian-Universalist Church, 125 years in May 1990; Bethel United Church of Christ in Freedom township, September 1990, 150 years; St. Joseph Catholic Church, Dexter, October 1990, 150 years.

Milan Historical Society, 100 years old in 1988, was presented a certificate in October and Great Lakes Bancorp of Ann Arbor received a centennial certificate in December.

UM LADY COLLEGIAN SOLVES HARD PROBLEM

"According to report there is in the University of Michigan a lady collegian who has excelled all the male student in the mathematics of the course, and has finally solved a 'problem' that had been 'given up' by the graduating classes for many years! What the 'problem' is report sayeth not -- whether it be a mathematical or a social one."

Harper's Bazar, New York, May 25, 1872

ACCREDITATION LEADS TO BETTER MUSEUMS

By Nancy T. McKinney

Accreditation by the American Association of Museums is a program by and for non-profit museums, which can give our museum the recognition it deserves in the museum field.

Museums participating in the accreditation process have committed themselves to excellence in programs and operations. Accreditation means that a museum has achieved and continues to meet professional standards of museum performance.

Achieving accreditation is not an easy task nor a short process, but it is well worth the time and effort.

The accreditation experience results in better long-range planning as well as gaining an understanding of where our museum is now, where it can and should be in the future and how we can lead it to this goal.

The process will address such concerns as finance, mission, governance, fund raising, collections management, programs, exhibits, public relations, ethics, marketing, physical facilities, preservation, documentation, security, storage, environmental controls, volunteer training, conservation practices, etc.

Many of the above areas will be covered more specifically in future articles in the *Impressions*.

Any questions or ideas can be addressed to Nancy T. McKinney, 665-5171, or Howard G. Finkel, 662-0544, co-chairmen of the accreditation committee of the WCHS Museum Planning Committee.

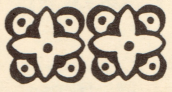
MUSEUM PRESERVATION PROJECT OF YEAR

Washtenaw County Historical Society received the Preservation Project of the Year Award for its Museum on Main Street project at 500 North Main from the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission May 6 at the City Council meeting.

The Commission noted that "the fortunate combination of the University's offer of an 1837 house with $5,000, in lieu of their cost to demolish it, and a vacant city-owned abandoned gas station at Beakes and Main began the process."

"One by one seemingly unsurmountable obstacles were conquered." Contaminated soil was removed. Crews to move the house had to come back a second time after Edison crews were delayed by a storm.

"(Now) secure on its new site, with a fine new basement and plans progressing for the site and the renovation of the interior, the target date for opening is now spring of 1992."



KEMNITZ DONATES COURTHOUSE PAINTING

Milt Kemnitz, Ann Arbor artist, has donated an outstanding painting of the old Washtenaw County Courthouse building that he recently completed.

That building, long a focus for the entire county, was built in 1878 and torn down in 1956. For many years the Society had display space and/or storage space in it.

THANKS FOR HISTORY-MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS

Six resolutions of thanks prepared by Lucille Fisher were adopted at the annual meeting as follows:

- to Karen O'Neal, WCHS president for two years during which she was instrumental in acquiring the house and lot and having the house moved and settled on Main Street.
- to Marilou Warner for service as vice-president and program chairman plus several years as a director.
- to O'Neal Construction Company for providing space for Board of Directors meetings.
- to Bentley Library which donated use of their meeting room for program meetings.
- to Dave Pollock and Cliff Sheldon who are leading fund-raising for the Museum on Main Street; Eugene Fowler and NBD-Ann Arbor for accepting the money donated; Esther Warzynski and Thelma Graves who have been acting as treasurers for the museum fund.
- to many persons and organizations who have donated money, in kind donations, time and expertise. (These have been listed in various issues of *The Impressions*. We hope we did not miss anyone.)

Thanks also to:

- Marty Evashevski, Carol Freeman, Sue Kosky and Pauline Walters for help in setting up the annual potluck meeting.
- Tartan and Thistle Scottish Country Dancers for entertainment at the annual meeting.

PAULINE WALTERS NEW WCHS PRESIDENT FOR 1991-92

Pauline Walters, WCHS director several years and membership chairman, who recently has staffed the museum fund raising office in the Goodyear Building downtown, was elected president of WCHS at the annual meeting May 1.

Karen O'Neal, who becomes immediate-past president, a Board office preferred to give up presidential duties to devote more time to the museum project.

Lois Foyle was named corresponding secretary to succeed Barbara Mueller. Re-elected were Marty Evashevski, recording secretary, and Louisa Pieper, treasurer.

Elizabeth Dusseau, Lucille Fisher and Alice Ziegler were re-elected to three-year terms on the board. Patty Creal has been appointed to fill the unexpired term (to May 1993) of her husband, Bob.

Karen was presented a black and white directors chair with her name, years as president of the Society and the front doorway symbol of the museum printed on it.

CERTIFICATES OFFERED

Hand-lettered certificates are offered free of charge, framed if desired, by WCHS to organizations for milestone anniversaries. Information: 663-8826.

Editor: Alice Ziegler, 663-8826
Address: 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Mailing: Pauline Walters, 662-9092
Published September-May, except January.
WCHS Office: (313) 662-9092

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Next Event

GARDEN WALK LUNCHEON & TALK

Saturday, June 8, 1991

Walk, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.

at
Matthael Botanical Gardens
1800 North Dixboro Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Goodyear Building, Suite 250
122 South Main Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-1903

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